



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

International Women's Day & Women's History Month

March 8, 2007

International Women's Day (IWD) is marked on March 8 every year. It is a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women.

IWD is now an official holiday in Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.



The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from the younger generation feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and, on a global scale, women's education, health and the violence against them is still worse than that of men.

However, great improvements have been made. We do have female CEOs and Prime Ministers, school girls are welcomed into universities, women can work *and* have a family – women have real choices. And so the tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives of womanhood to a celebration of the positives.

On March 8, thousands of events are held annually throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. While there are many large-scale initiatives, a rich and diverse fabric of local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events to local women's craft markets, theatric performances, fashion parades and more.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women's_Day
<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/about.asp>

Women's History Month is an annual declared month in the United States that highlights contributions of women to events in history.

The annual event traces its beginnings to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1978, the school district of Sonoma, California participated in Women's History Week, an event designed around the week of International Women's Day. In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, Congress passed a resolution making Women's History Week a national holiday. Congress legally expanded the focus to a whole month in 1987.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_History_Month



This collection of resources aims to provide relevant sources of information on International Women's Day. The web resources in this collection are represented by U.S. government websites, those of non-governmental international organizations and various reference websites.

U.S. Government resources:

U.S. Dept. of State: National Women's History Month

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/womens_history_month.html

U.S. Dept. of State: Women in the United States

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us.html

U.S. Dept. of State: Women in the United States, links

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us/national_womens_history_month/national_womens_history_month_links.html

U.S. Dept. of State: Women in the Global Community

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/women.html

A Dept. of State publication: Principles of Democracy: The Rights of Women and Girls

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/principles/women.htm>

A Dept. of State publication: Women of Influence

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>

A Dept. of State publication: Working for Women, Worldwide

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/women/index.htm>

U.S. Dept. of State: A webchat with Professor Georgia Duerst-Lahti: Women's Growing Roles in Contemporary U.S. Politics (Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 17:00 Kyiv time)

http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/duerst_lahti_08_mar_2007.html

Summary of the March 2006 webchat with a historian Susan Ware:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Mar/09-105983.html>

U.S. Dept. of State for Youth: U.S. International Women's Issues Initiatives

<http://future.state.gov/what/special/57436.htm>

The Library of Congress: Women's History Month

<http://www.loc.gov/topics/womenshistory/>

The Library of Congress: American Women

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/index.html>

Other resources:

International Women's Day

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2006/>

United Nations CyberschoolBus

<http://www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp>

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women's_Day

United Nations Development Fund for Women

<http://www.unifem.org/>

Womenaid International

<http://www.womenaid.org/events/iwd/iwd.htm>

Infoplease.com

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womensday1.html>

Some commercial websites may offer items or information for fee. Though we recommend those sites as potential resources, the Embassy does not endorse their products over other commercial products on the market.

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